

# Louisiana Department of Natural Resources



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## Williams is Mineral Resources' Land Manager with Moxie

### Employee Profile

#### Elaine Williams

Office of Mineral Resources  
Petroleum Lands Division  
Baton Rouge



Meet Elaine Williams, since July 2001, when she first began working for state government, it was pretty telling that her past experience in private business and her ready-to-work attitude would lead to her success. In the department's Office of Mineral Resources' Petroleum Lands Division, Williams holds the position of Land Manager. This office is responsible for assisting the Louisiana Mineral and Energy Board in the state's mineral leasing program.

"This is where the process of nominating state land and waterbottoms begins, and when we advertise to the public, we want to be sure every detail is right," Williams noted.

The short version of the process is this - industry or leaseholders are required to meet the deadline for application to nominate a tract(s) of state land, next a notice of publication is provided in the state and parish official newspapers, this is followed by a period of time when sealed bids are provided to our agency by prospective bidders, and then there is the opening of the bids on the monthly Lease Sale date. It is a rigorous schedule that by law must be followed each cycle.

As a manager, one of her many duties is to ensure that leases are properly drafted, sent to Lessees and timely returned for processing by the office. She works with the public constantly, pointing them to OMR's leasing manual as well as the 'How to Guides' which can be found on the department's website.

Williams is one of the key personnel of the department utilizing the SONRIS database, a system that is recognized for its functionality. She has a way of working with people that gives them assurance, and she does it so effortlessly.

Williams and the entire Petroleum Land staff show a real spirit of dedication to their work – accompanied by some of the best smiles you will ever see!

On a final note, like so many of us, she is a devoted fan of the WhoDat nation even with a 2-4 season so far. On her "Travel Bucket List" she can hardly wait for the day that she gets to see the great Northern Lights!

Photo Top: The state Mineral and Energy Board has nine members appointed by the Governor. The current Board Chairman is Thomas Arnold of Harvey and the Vice Chairman is Paul Segura of Lafayette.

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## Gulf of Mexico Alliance honors first Clean and Resilient Marina in Louisiana

SeaBrook Harbor and Marina of New Orleans has been named a “Clean and Resilient Marina” in Louisiana, a distinction that puts them in a class all their own. Certified as a “Clean Marina” by the DNR Office of Coastal Management in May of this year, SeaBrook’s owner Jeff Montz pursued several additional best management practices and strategies that would ensure his marina’s ability to survive and operate during and after a severe storm. For marinas on the Gulf of Mexico that are exposed to Mother Nature’s affects – being resilient means being able to prevent loss of life and personal injury, reduce property damage, and resume normal business activities as soon as possible following a hazardous storm. In September, the partnership of states known as the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, DNR, and Louisiana Sea Grant joined together to present SeaBrook with this latest achievement. Congratulations to the Montz family.



Melissa Trosclair (LSU Sea Grant), Jon Truxillo (OCM), SeaBrook Operator Jeff Montz, Sara Krupa (OCM), and Frank Cole (OCM).

## Working for a Beautiful and Litter Free Louisiana

Keep Louisiana Beautiful’s focus is on education, enforcement, awareness, litter removal and beautification. Some 39 affiliates and 23,000 volunteers are active in the organization. DNR’s Public Information Director Phyllis Darensbourg has recently been selected to join the group’s Advisory Board.

The department will also join in KLB’s mission as a partnering state agency along with the departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Transportation and Development, Environmental Quality, Corrections, Ag and Forestry, and the Lt. Governor’s Office.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful is the state’s leading nonprofit that brings people together to build and sustain vibrant, clean communities. Darensbourg said she is looking forward to helping to empower future generations of environmental stewards.



## Look at What’s Ahead – Upcoming Calendar of Events

For the months of October and November—We are on the Geaux!

10/17 \*USFW Wild Things Fall Festival \*Bayou Lacombe Center \* Lacombe

10/21 \*LSU Center for Energy Studies- Energy Summit 2015 \* Baton Rouge

10/27 \*Ocean Commotion \* LSU Assembly Center \* Baton Rouge

11/05 \*Atchafalaya Basin Program \*Promotion Board Meeting \* DNR LaSalle Building

11/09 \*La. Science Teachers Association Conference \*River Center \* Baton Rouge

11/12 \*Mineral and Energy Board Meeting and Lease Sale \* DNR LaSalle Building



## A Message from Secretary Stephen Chustz

I would like to thank those who regularly interact with the Department of Natural Resources for your efforts to improve performance both inside your organizations and within our agency. We at DNR are continuing our efforts to improve efficiencies and appreciate the input, suggestions and ideas that you have provided. We will continue to work to automate forms and eliminate manual submittals that are not only cumbersome and resource-intensive but may also lead to unintended errors in submittals. We also continue to identify opportunities to streamline regulations that are inefficient or confusing. DNR employees have worked hard to take your suggestions and make positive changes that benefit us all. No one has resources to waste and we should all continue to work together to identify opportunities for improvement that allow us to focus our energies where they are most needed and produce the best results.

## Louisiana Clean Fuels Receives Three National Awards

Louisiana Clean Fuels has recently received recognition for clean fuel projects in Louisiana while attending this year's National Clean Cities Coordinator Workshop in Chicago in September. LCF Executive Director Ann Shaneyfelt attended the event and was presented three awards.

The awards cited outstanding efforts of the LCF during 2014 as compared to other state's programs which included; Most Diverse Growth, Most Petroleum Gallon Gas Equivalent (GGE) Reduced for Renewable Natural Gas Projects, and Emerging Technology Specialists in Renewable Diesel Use.

LCF reported a total reduction of 2,296,932 GGE of petroleum and 6,467 tons of greenhouse gases in 2014.

The Emerging Technology award represents the group's renewable diesel project with UPS and expectations of GGE reductions to be **even greater** over the next two years.



Executive Director LCF Ann Shaneyfelt (center) with Clean Cities officials at national conference held this past September in Chicago.

## DNR Geaux Team on the Move and in the Classroom

The DNR Geaux Team travels across the state for public, community, and school outreach throughout the year. Some recent presentations were Back to School Bash at Progress Elementary in Baton Rouge; Bluebonnet Swamp Wetland Center Day Campers; National Hunting and Fishing Day at Waddill Education Center; and Prairieville and Dutchtown Middle School Career Days.

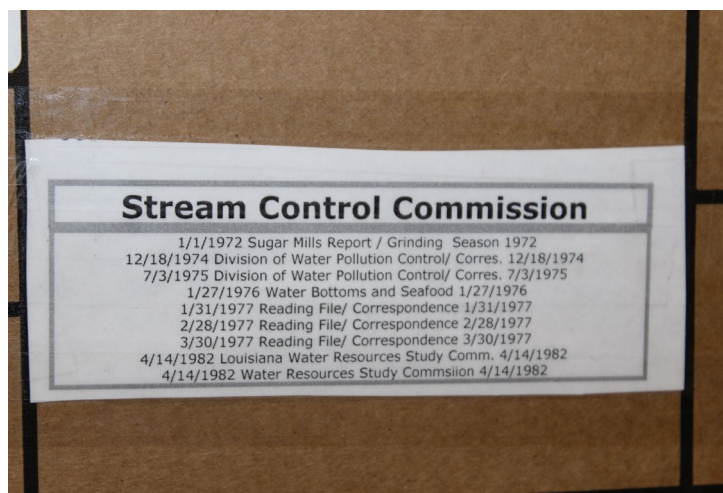
Photo L-R: Terri Tharp (OC Groundwater) presents to students at Dutchtown Middle School for Career Day, emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers. Kellie McNamara (OC Injection and Mining) explores magic and science with young students at Parkview Baptist.





## Historical Records Tell Us of the Past – Add Value to the Present

The Louisiana Stream Control Commission was once an active body with authority to make decisions on permitting actions and issues related to water resources of the state. In short, the Stream Control Commission represented the first regulatory commission for the state. In the late 1930's the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries had a Water Pollution Control Division and over time, the Department of Health and Hospitals along with a couple of other groups were collectively dealing with areas of water quality and environmental concerns. Eventually, the Commission was abolished in the 70's, and its authority moved to the Environmental Quality office of what was then the Department of Natural Resources. Once the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was established in the 80's, the records, documents and authority of the commission were transferred over to DEQ.



Records from the 70's and 80's found at DEQ and now available online. Photo credit: La. DEQ

Volumes of old records of the commission have been kept over the years, and as fate would have it— **Author Jason Theriot** was able to piece together historical information on the state's aquifers and freshwater streams, saltwater intrusion, agricultural runoff and related topics to help write his recent book, "**American Energy, Imperiled Coast: Oil and Gas Development in Louisiana's Wetlands.**" Back when Theriot began his research for the book, he contacted DNR and DEQ since his research primarily focused on the historical dynamics of oil and gas development, environmental policies and restoration along the Gulf Coast.

He said he hit pay dirt when he discovered DEQ's EDMS (Electronic Document Management System), where he could further his research and where he found transcripts and hand-written notes of the Stream Control Commission Meetings that had been scanned and preserved in the system. Theriot is an LSU graduate, now living in Texas, and is an energy and environmental consultant and former Energy Policy Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. His book was published last year.

If you are interested in this exciting bit of Louisiana history, it's easy, just look a few doors over to DEQ's whole collection of Stream Control Commission documents. The EDMS is available online – look under Agency Interest Number (AI) 168766, to get a glimpse into the evolution of environmental practice and policy in our state. DEQ says that the Stream Control Commission collection, with over 30 boxes of valuable information, will soon be donated to the State Archives.

## Dilfield Site Restoration Program– Engineers must assess and prioritize



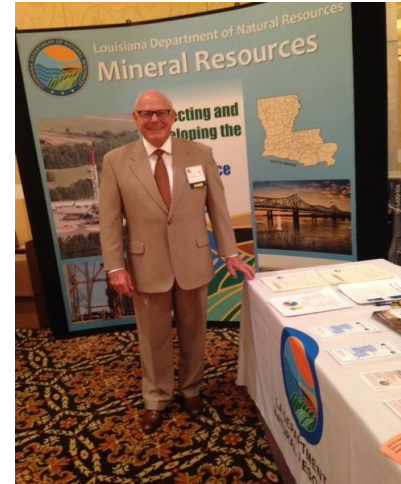
There are currently two restoration sites in progress and two ready to start in the Oilfield Site Restoration Program. Orphan well sites are prioritized to direct available funding to those sites that pose the greatest harm to safety and environment. Project design and oversight is handled by in-house petroleum engineering staff while all other restoration-specific tasks are contracted to approved oilfield contractors. Project bids are solicited in accordance with the State bid law and projects are awarded to the lowest qualified bidder.

Since the program was started in 1993, there have been 2,704 orphan wells plugged. In this picture a gas well in Acadia parish that was found to be leaking and was promptly repaired with a casing clamp and will soon be plugged and abandoned by the program.

## State Oil and Gas Conference SONRIS to SUNSET- Networking, Education and Training

The SONRIS to SUNSET Conference held in August in New Orleans brought some 350 attendees together for two days of training and a wealth of information on how to better understand the operations of DNR and other government agencies. Featured speakers included DNR Secretary Stephen Chustz, Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh, Tulane Economist Peter Ricchiuti, LMOGA President Chris John, LOSCO Director Brian Wynne, DEQ Administrator Tom Killeen, Board of Ethics Attorney Brett Robinson, and LOGA President Don Briggs. Conference facilitator DNR Undersecretary Beverly Hodges noted there were some twenty-plus sponsors and exhibitors at this year's event.

Photo L-R: Mineral and Energy Board Audit Committee Chairman Darryl Smith of Hammond. Lisa McClendon of Hilcorp of Houston, Taletha Shorter and Rachel Newman (OMR). Emile Fontenot (OMR) shown at the department's Welcome Table, also presented on the "Ins and Outs of Leasing State Lands".



## Election Season 2015—Geaux Vote: Yes, It's that time again

The following is information published by the Office of Secretary of State Tom Schedler.

The Primary Election will be Saturday, Oct. 24, with the runoffs or General Election on Saturday, Nov. 21. Polls open from 7 am until 8 pm. Remember, as long as you are in line by 8 pm on election day, you will be able to vote.

Early voting in Louisiana begins 14 days prior to the election and runs for a week. For the runoffs, early voting will be Saturday, Nov. 7 through Nov. 14. Early voting is held at each parish Registrar of Voters Office and at select remote sites. For a list of early voting sites go online to <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/earlyvoting>.

Before heading to the polls, voters should review their sample ballot due to the number of candidate races, propositions and constitutional amendments. Voters are asked to cast their vote within a three-minute time limit –so being prepared before entering the booth will reduce lines and wait times on Election Day.

View a sample ballot online at [www.geauxvote.com](http://www.geauxvote.com) and learn about the constitutional amendments at the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana's website, [www.parlouisiana.org](http://www.parlouisiana.org).

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